

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE-MAKING**

In accordance with Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-35-3, notice is hereby given that the RI Department of Corrections (RIDOC) proposes to amend the following RIDOC rule:

9.41-4 DOC Detaining Visitors with Outstanding Warrants

This amended rule includes revisions which reflect:

- clarification to the policy statement section
- instructions to Visits Supervisor/Shift Commander to submit a report

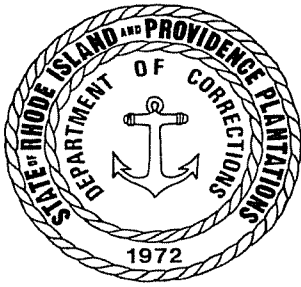
In the development of this rule, consideration was given to the following: (1) alternative approaches; and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.

This proposed rule is accessible on the RI Secretary of State website (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules/>) and the RIDOC website (<http://www.doc.ri.gov/index.php>) or available in hard copy upon request (401) 462-3533. Interested persons should submit written comments by Friday, January 6, 2012, to Gina Caruolo, Chief, Program and Policy Development, RI Department of Corrections, 1375 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 (gina.caruolo@doc.ri.gov).

In accordance with RIGL 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by an agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

RIDOC does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE



POLICY NUMBER:
9.41-4 DOC

EFFECTIVE DATE:
Draft #2; 12/01/11

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SUPERCEDES:
9.41-3 DOC

DIRECTOR:

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SECTION:
SECURITY AND CONTROL

SUBJECT:
DETAINING VISITORS WITH
OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-10 (22), Powers of the director

REFERENCES: RIDOC policy #'s 5.09-1 DOC, Commitment by Warrant - Documentation Needed; 9.31-1 DOC, Reporting of Events in the Division of Institutions and Operations; 24.03-4 DOC, Visits; § 11-1-2, Felony, misdemeanor - petty misdemeanor, and violation distinguished; § 12-7-2, Search of detained person for weapon; § 12-7-8, Restraint and force used

INMATE / PUBLIC ACCESS? X YES

AVAILABLE IN SPANISH? X NO

I. PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) correctional personnel to follow in the event a Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) and/or a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check reveals an outstanding warrant on a visitor to the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI).

II. POLICY:

A. Whenever a BCI/NCIC check reveals there may be an outstanding warrant on a visitor to the ACI, correctional personnel shall:

1. allow the visitor to ~~complete his/her visit~~ into the facility and detain him/her in designated area;

Public Notice:

Public Hearing:

2. call the Rhode Island State Police (RISP) to verify the warrant is active;
 3. request RISP take custody of the visitor, if appropriate;
 4. notify the visitor, when s/he ~~exits the visiting area~~ enters the facility, that a warrant is outstanding;
 5. ~~detain the visitor in an area designated for such detainment until s/he is taken into custody by RISP or other appropriate law enforcement officials.~~
- B. *All visiting rooms will post signs informing visitors a BCI/NCIC check will be conducted to reveal criminal history and/or outstanding warrants and those outstanding warrants may lead to ~~detainment~~ detention and arrest.*

III. PROCEDURES:

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this policy, each facility Warden will develop facility-specific protocols to address the detention of all visitors of the ACI with outstanding warrants or detainees.

A. Conducting a BCI/NCIC Check

1. All visitors to any RIDOC institution are required to report to the appropriate Reception Desk and show proof of identification prior to being admitted to the facility.
2. The Reception Desk officer conducts a BCI/NCIC check to determine whether the visitor has a criminal record and/or outstanding warrant.
3. If the BCI/NCIC check does not reveal an active warrant or other disqualifying reason for disallowing the visit, the Reception Desk Officer allows the visitor to enter the Visiting Room.
4. If the BCI/NCIC check reveals an active warrant, the Reception Desk officer:
 - a. ~~allows the visitor to complete his/her visit;~~
 - ba. notifies the Visits Supervisor. In the Visits Supervisor's absence, the Reception Desk Officer notifies the Shift Commander;
 - eb. notifies the visitor, when s/he ~~exits the visiting area~~ enters the facility, that a warrant is outstanding;

- d.c. detains the visitor in an area designated for such detainment until s/he is taken into custody by RISP or other appropriate law enforcement officials.

B. Notifying the State Police

The Visits Supervisor (or, in his/her absence, the Shift Commander):

1. Calls the RISP (Lincoln Barracks; **444-1122**).
2. Notifies the Officer in Charge a BCI/NCIC check has revealed an outstanding warrant on a visitor.
3. Provides the following information:
 - a. Visitor's Name
 - b. Visitor's Date of Birth
4. Requests RISP verify the warrant is active.
5. If the warrant is active, asks RISP to:
 - a. determine whether the warrant involves a violation only (as opposed to a misdemeanor or felony) for the purpose of RIDOC's detaining or not detaining the visitor. (Violation is defined in III.D.1.b. below).

Only visitors with outstanding warrants for offenses for which incarceration is a possible sanction are detained.

 - b. respond to affected RIDOC facility and take custody of the visitor, if appropriate.

C. Detaining a Visitor

1. The Visits Supervisor/ Shift Commander ensures the visitor knows the reason s/he is being detained.
2. The Visits Supervisor/Shift Commander records the visitor's name and time of and reason for detention in the facility's Daily Blotter.
3. Whenever the detention of a visitor is required, s/he should be detained in an area designated by the facility administrator.

4. At no time should an area of detention be visible to the inmate population.
5. A correctional officer of the same sex as the visitor may (frisk) search any visitor s/he is detaining for a dangerous weapon whenever the officer reasonably believes s/he is in danger from the person carrying such weapon. The officer may take and keep the weapon until the visitor is either released or arrested.
6. No greater restraint than is necessary is used for the detention of any visitor, and no unnecessary or unreasonable force is used in making an arrest.
7. The Visits Supervisor/Shift Commander contacts 1-800-RICHILD (the Department of Children, Youth and Families' child abuse hotline) if the visitor is taken into custody and s/he is accompanied by (a) minor child(ren).
78. The Visits Supervisor/Shift Commander submits a detailed report as defined in policy 9.31-1 DOC, Reporting of Events in the Division of Institutions and Operations, or a successive policy.

D. Releasing a Detained Visitor

1. Detained visitors will be released by order of the Visits Supervisor/Shift Commander when:
 - a. RISP notify RIDOC the warrant is no longer active;
 - b. RISP notify RIDOC the warrant involves a violation, i.e., any offense which may be punished by a fine only of not more than five hundred dollars ($\leq \$500.00$; RIGL § 11-1-2) and there is no need to detain the visitor. Examples of violations include minimum housing violations, parking violations, and library card offenses. Such warrants are usually issued by municipal courts.
 - c. RISP or other appropriate law enforcement officials arrive at the affected ACI facility and take custody of the detained visitor.
2. The Visits Supervisor/Shift Commander:
 - a. informs the visitor s/he has an outstanding warrant involving a violation;
 - b. encourages him/her to contact the appropriate court or police department to rectify the matter;

- c. explains that visits will be denied as long as the warrant is active.